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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of the following:

United States warplanes and fighters continue to violate Iraqi airspace. Up to the present, I have notified you daily of the details of these violations, but it appears that the United Nations is not capable of putting an end to the United States of America's continuous violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the violation of the sovereignty of a Member State.

These violations have assumed a "grave" character aimed at disseminating terror and alarm in the minds of Iraqi civilians, particularly children and women, since these aircraft break the sound barrier at very low altitudes over the towns and villages of Iraq, causing, in addition to terror and alarm, large-scale material damage to civilian houses and public buildings and the wounding of innocent people as a result of the smashing of glass and windows and the shaking of buildings.

For some time, United States warplanes taking off from airfields inside Turkish territory, have been violating Iraqi airspace in the governorates of Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa. During the past two months, they have been violating the airspace over Mosul almost daily at various altitudes. At 0942 hours on Wednesday, 30 October 1991, two United States F-16s flew very low at an altitude of 200 metres and broke the sound barrier over the city of Mosul, which caused breakage of glass in windows and the shaking of some buildings and stores and aroused terror among the children, in addition to the unfounded alarm that this violation aroused in civilian citizens. Other aircraft carried out 12 sorties over Mosul, Dohuk and Zakho, which continued until 0230 hours in the afternoon of the same day.

United States warplanes have continued to violate Iraqi airspace. At 0916, 0839, 0851, 0991, 0955, 1100 and 1135 hours on Friday, 1 November 1991, United States warplanes violated the airspace over the city of Mosul and its

suburbs and broke the sound barrier from time to time in an attempt to alarm the citizens on their day of rest and leisure. Great damage was done also to buildings and property, in particular the Nineveh Oberoi Hotel, which suffered great damage as a result of the low flights and the breaking of the sound barrier by the United States aircraft, inasmuch as the damage included the breakage of the building's windows and the smashing of a number of false ceilings, doors and electrical equipment. Initial estimates of the losses at this hotel are 80,000 dinars, in addition to other unlisted losses.

The disgraceful actions by the forces of the United States of America, which claims to be civilized and advanced and to protect human rights and defend the freedom of the individual, has created states of alarm, consternation and psychological unrest in children, the effects of which are immeasurable on the material scale. They also present a challenge to all religious values and customs because they present a challenge to the feelings of Muslims as they are performing their Friday prayers on the holy day which they reserve for worship. These violations have also created a state of sudden disruptions of traffic, leading to collisions.

The Iraqi Government, as it strongly condemns these crimes, calls on the international community, through the United Nations, to undertake to put a halt to them, in accordance with the prescriptions of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative